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EDITORIAL

Editors can never be sure whether their editorials are ever actually read, or if they are read attentively. Should this be common practice among present readers, then few will become aware of what follows. If, on the other hand, all recipients of this journal peruse its editorials, then it is to be hoped that some action can be jointly adopted in the forthcoming months for the benefit of all.

As these lines are written, we all stand on the thresh-hold of a new decade, the 1980's. We can look back at the 1970's and we can look towards the future. What do we see? We will concentrate upon the UK panorama.

During the 1970's we saw, after a slow start for the first eighteen months, a great upwelling of interest in ufos and related topics, so that in some quarters this has assumed cultish almost religious significance. This appears to have gone hand in hand with a consistent facade of disinterestedness on the part of officialdom in the UK. The latter is measurably shrinking but is still internally strong, while the former is growing and is generally wild and woolly, despite what some would like to believe.

Prominent among the developments of the 1970's was the formation of countless ufo study groups and organizations, which, in Britain, joined the few (FSR, BUFORA, MUFOB, and CONTACT) that had soldiered on from the 1960's. In America, Dr Alan Hynek set up the Centre for UFO Studies and MUFON came into being; in France Claude Poher headed the first government backed study centre for the ufo phenomenon in the Gallic world. Many other countries set up private ufo organizations for the first time.

Now, the economics of running any study group (official or private) are complex and in the main depend directly upon how much finance is available to any particular body. Membership subscriptions pay for the production of journals, meetings, and, in some instances, club badges and stickers, but are seldom sufficient to allow the purchase or long term rent of a separate building wherein can be stored accumulating ufo records, books and publications, works of reference, and members' equipment. Such an arrangement should be the ultimately goal of every group --- otherwise it is wasting its time. But, as just stated, it takes money and interest to achieve that.

Quite frankly, there are just too many ufo study groups in existence who, though individually well meaning, will never possess enough members to accumulate sufficient finance to acquire premises of the type described. The total potential membership and fiscal resources are thus too thinly distributed for anyone to really succeed in achieving this ideal goal. Even the four well established British groups named above operate from private addresses. Do we in fact need even those four, let alone the many others of lesser size? The answer is that we probably do not. Consider for a moment the vast increase of finance, effort, and resources that would become available if all these four groups united, and how much greater still if all UK groups united. An impossible dream?

Whatever the outcome in the future, it seems plain that, with spiralling inflation and globally collapsing economies, some form of amalgamation will have to occur if any semblance of ufological unity is to survive in the 1980-1990 decade. All the above groups, as well as Hynek's prestigious "Centre", operate under severe financial restraints. Long continuance of that will cause their eventual disappearance. So let us all come down to Earth for a change and arrange matters to guarantee our future.

The Editor.

# "ARE UFOS A PRODUCT OF THE MIND?"

by

Dr Sarath de Silva\*

The unknown must be explained in terms of the known. This is a basic feature of human learning. If an individual experiences a phenomenon which is unknown to them, they will try their best to explain this at a personal level in terms of known mechanisms.

If they fail to do so, they may ask someone else or consult a book or books. If, after all such attempts, the phenomenon remains unexplained, they will describe that phenomenon as "very strange" or "mysterious", or use an expression such as, "I just cannot explain it".

It is very likely that they will declare themselves ill by saying that they were "seeing things"; instead of putting themselves into such an awkward situation, they might keep the experience to themselves. Many instances are known of this kind of reaction among perplexed witnesses to all types of unexplained phenomena.

On the other hand, if accounts of such inexplicable phenomena are made to somebody else, that second person can very easily assume that the reporter was "seeing things". Such an assumption is quite safe because it involves someone else, not oneself. At the same time it gets rid of the possible existence of unknown phenomena which cannot be explained in terms of known phenomena. Such an action or attitude is "soothing" to the mind.

This type of situation is common with respect to sightings of UFOs. Such phenomena have been reported by thousands of people all over the world; but they are phenomena which "really can't happen" and cannot be totally explained most of the time in terms of known physical laws of this world.

Therefore, it is possible that these phenomena are actually not in existence -- that they are the products of the minds of those who are reporting them?

One must be very careful in answering this question, because the answer should be down-to-earth and simple, and not involve highly theoretical possibilities.

If ufos do not exist in the objective world, the following three possibilities can be considered:

1: UFO reports are lies; 2: UFOs are illusions; 3: UFOs are perceptual abnormalities.

Of these, the first possibility is the easiest. It immediately explains away every ufos report, but at the same time it is the most improbable. Although there is an observation seen in the practice of psychiatry where some patients repeatedly tell lies in a very pathological way, this phenomenon does not at all explain ufo sightings, many of which, moreover, are submitted by individuals possessing high professional qualifications as observers and who sometimes stand to lose jobs and credence by the very act of reporting what they have allegedly seen. Indeed, in psychiatric literature, one does not come across statements relating to ufos or to reports of that kind made by such patients. Considering the large total of ufo witnesses now on record, psychiatric literature should, if ufo reports are lies, contain at least a few such cases.

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The second possibility --- that ufos are illusions --- cannot be discussed at length in this article owing to the many technical considerations attendant upon it. We can, however, make the following relevant observations. For an illusion to occur, an actual physical stimulus must be present in the objective space in the vicinity of the individual receiving the illusion. The observer of this stimulus perceives it incorrectly, mainly due to certain factors associated with that stimulus. It is important to realise that this is not the same as giving a wrong interpretation to a correctly perceived object or phenomenon. There are many who argue that ufos are illusions created by naturally occurring phenomena; but this inference fails to explain all of the known observations submitted by ufo witnesses.

What remains now is to consider the possibility that ufo sightings are abnormal perceptions. It is easier to discuss this under the following headings:

- i) Eidetic imagery.
- ii) Hallucinations occurring under extremes of physiological states.
- iii) Drug induced hallucinations.
- iv) Hallucinations occurring in psychiatric illnesses.

Eidetic imagery is found exclusively in children. In such a situation, a child --- after looking at a picture steadily for a few minutes --- is able, after taking their eyes off that picture, to still see the picture in clear detail in front of them; that is, to see it in the objective space for a few further minutes. This is a well-recognized phenomenon. The image always occurs in the near vicinity and never as far away as in ufo sightings.

This is always experienced by the child who has been looking at the said picture --- if he or she is one who is prone to having such experiences --- but never by any other children who have not been looking at the picture. By this very brief description of the basic features of eidetic imagery it will be obvious that ufos are not products of such experiences.

The other three categories enumerated above deal with hallucinations.

Hallucinations are perceptions occurring in the total absence of physical stimuli to account for them. This definition, though very incomplete from a psychiatric point of view, is adequate enough for the purpose of this article.

Extreme fatigue, sleepiness, severe boredom or monotony, sensory deprivation either in real-life situation or in an experimental setting, and extreme psychological states all give rise to hallucinations. Such hallucinations are mostly of momentary occurrence. They cover many areas of experience and modalities of sensation. They are not in any sense organised or coherent. They are fragmented. Persons experiencing them will be aware, if not at that particular moment, that they were experiencing such perceptual aberrations and will readily admit to this fact. If not, they will at least strongly doubt their own experience and will make a statement to that effect when they report that experience to others. If one questions the person closely, it will be quite obvious that that person has been under extremes of a psychological state. The annals of psychology are full of such cases.

It is clear, then, that ufo sightings cannot be accounted for by such explanations because all the criteria are not fulfilled in such reportings.

Drug induced hallucinations are quite different to the above class. They are experienced under the influence of drugs which are hallucinogenic. They will be either the major effects of the drugs concerned --- such as cannabis (the most active compound of which is tetrahydro cannabinol), LSD (lysergic acid),

or mescaline, to name but a few; or the toxic effects of drugs such as atropine or L-dopa, which are used in therapy.

Of much interest to us here are the hallucinatory drugs --- the hallucinogens. The hallucinations induced by these are of the most interest to us. Moving lights, moving lines in grey or vivid colours, tunnels or moving spirals, various geometric shapes, star-shaped objects, complex or bizarre scenario and many more individualized hallucinations have been documented. They are mainly visual but other sensory modulations also have been affected and have been duly recorded.

The person experiencing them is aware of these phenomena and can even give a running commentary on what they are undergoing.

Most of them occur in the mind, within the subjective space, but many occur in the outside objective space too. They are all within the vicinity of the percipient. On close questioning, one will be able to gather the information that the person concerned has or had been taking drugs. It has been noted that there is an inherent pattern which is the visual one and which is present in all drug induced hallucinations; and the intriguing view that this is a uniform and inherent manifestation of the human brain has also been put forward (in a way similar to the concept of a "collective unconscious").

Ufo sightings which are described, are wholly different to these drug induced hallucinations, as the reader will be able to judge. One, however, might see some similarities in colour, movement, and the shapes observed.

Hallucinations occurring in psychiatric states are quite different to all the above groups. In addition to the functional illnesses such as various types of psychosis, other major states such as drug withdrawal states, longterm drug induced states like amphetamine psychosis, organic brain damage, epileptic states, and complications arising from physical disorders, are included here for simplicity.

To this date, this writer has not, during his work in the field of psychiatry in Sri Lanka and England, over a period of nine years, come across a single patient whose perceptual abnormalities produced descriptions that came anywhere near the descriptions of ufo sightings as given in assorted literature. Neither has he seen such experiences being reported in psychiatric literature dealing with actual case histories of patients.

A description of all the types of hallucinations occurring in psychiatric states cannot be given here owing to the sheer magnitude of the subject. It will nevertheless be illuminating to go through the basic patterns seen in ufo sightings and to assess them against psychiatric phenomena.

Most ufo witnesses give relatively very objective accounts of their experiences. These accounts of sightings do not get mixed up with their personal lives, personal fears, feelings, and experiences. They do not go hand in hand with distorted contents of thought, and ufo sightings are not in any way systematised in the reporters' lives to make a coherent whole.

With the important exception of cultists, ufo witnesses do not believe in these sightings so as to alter their lives or make inferences from them which affect them personally. Most of the reports involve single events which are not, except in a few cases, repeated for that same individual witness. Percipients are able to dissociate from the observed phenomena without putting personal meaning into them. All persons who have reported ufo sightings appear to be functioning well, carrying on with their day to day lives quite irrespective of the phenomena reported. Note should be taken, however, of those witnesses (e.g., Dale



Spaur) who as a result of having reported a ufo sighting are so ridiculed, and in some extreme instances persecuted, by others unwilling to believe their claims, that their lives have been drastically altered. In that connection, however, it is important to note that it was not the ufo event itself which effected such changes, but the intransigence of uncompromising contemporaries. Although it cannot have been the intention of persecuted ufo witnesses to have altered their lives by describing their experiences, their persistence in adhering to what they felt to be the facts of their particular cases was inevitably a major factor contributing to the unaccommodating attitudes of others capable of ridiculing and persecuting them. There is an important and fundamental difference between this type of alteration in life style and one generated by the hallucinatory processes we are reviewing.

All the aforementioned features make the possibility that ufo sightings are a psychiatric phenomenon quite untenable. In other words, ufos are not products of the human mind. It will be of much value to enquire of ufo witnesses --- when obtaining reports during interviews --- whether they had, at about or just before the time of their sightings, taken any drugs or medicines; and that some synopsis of past medical history (irrespective of its nature) would also be of much value. For example, a witness might have used hard drugs recently, had a psychiatric breakdown in the past, or at the time of the sighting may have been in an extremely tired state, or under some great strain. Such a detailed picture will definitely go a long way toward clarifying any doubts which linger later on and will stand strong against any counter argument. All these facts and factors should be taken into account when gathering and evaluating ufo reports.

The ufo phenomenon is too serious to be taken lightly and most witnesses will not be offended by such searching questions about their personal lives if these are presented with proper decorum. After all, what is to be judged is their report not their personalities; but initially at least the two are intertwined and must be investigated simultaneously until the precise character of the report becomes sufficiently clear for the "individual" or "personal" aspect to be laid aside. I am aware that not all field investigators are professional medics, psychiatrists, counsellors, or interviewers, so that while obtaining personal and medical facts from witnesses may be relatively easy for say a doctor or a priest, it is incumbent upon all field investigators not in those particular categories to conduct interviews in the highest possible manner. Failure to do so will either fail to elicit the data necessary to evaluate the sighting adequately or will antagonise at least some witnesses. Neither of these results is a desirable goal.

In conclusion, therefore, it is the considered opinion of this writer that ufos are not the products of the minds of those who report them, but since, as alluded above, there are so many perceptual abnormalities which the human brain is prone to, there should be no doubt at all on this issue when such reports are collected and published.

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#### "SELECTED UFO REPORTS"

by

D.N.Mansell

Throughout the earlier months of 1979 ufo reports continued to pour into Data Research's headquarters. The total was awesome. Below are just a few of the more interesting received for January and February; they represent about one sixth of all those received for those two months.

January 1979:

- 1st. Miss Jane Gibson, a 16 years-old student saw over Paignton, Devonshire, a yellow-orange bugle or cone-shaped object for upwards of 20 minutes through an open widow at 4.20pm on this date. It had a green-coloured spot in its centre, and the whole object emitted a "vapour". It was estimated to be 2 miles away and appeared to be hovering. An intruding telephone call prevented the witness seeing how the object departed.
- 3rd. At 5.10 pm., over New Elgin, Morayshire, Scotland, 28 years-old Mr McBride watched a golden bell-shaped object the size of a pea at arm's length. It was soundless and had a blurred outline. It travelled horizontally and suddenly made a 90 degree turn, and thereafter disappeared from sight quickly. Conditions for viewing were clear sky, cold, and frosty.
- 5th. 23 years-old Mr Elliott saw 6 red globular lights in line-ahead formation over Blythe Bridge, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, at 5.45 am. They abruptly dematerialised after being in view for about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  minutes, during which period they were seen to progress from left to right in undulatory fashion.
- 6th. At 4.50 pm. 38 years-old Mrs Maureen Woods and two friends saw, over Daresbury, Cheshire, a white globe exhibiting orange, green, yellow, and bluey-purple lights. It emitted a gently humming sound as it disappeared into the distance.
- 8th. Kathleen Elsdon saw, at 7.30 pm., over Gateshead, in Tyne and Wear, a remarkable car-sized rectangular object absolutely covered in bright pink and blue lights -- the whole resembling a kind of flying carpet. It passed over her head at an estimated height of a mere 50 yards, and made a quiet humming sound as it did so. It disappeared from view over Bensham Road.
- 9th. 15 years-old John Gardiner watched a fast-moving white sphere at 6.30 pm. over Aston, near Nantwich, Cheshire. It was the apparent size of a pin-head at arm's length, and appeared to be at a great altitude. Seen for approximately 90 seconds, the sphere moved silently and constantly from right to left and passed behind a nearby tree. It did not reappear in the sky on the far side of the tree.
- 11th. At 6.37 pm. several witnesses who happened at the time to be in a beack garden in Warrington, Cheshire, noticed a round red object in the sky being followed by two more of identical character. After hovering for a while the objects, which were soundless, disappeared. Two were as large as a cricket-ball at arm's length and one was the size of a football at that distance.

Below, I provide a few Canadian reports for the period January 12th to 20th., to illustrate that Britain was not having a monopoly of ufo sightings at that time. The reports have been purposely kept brief. Interested parties may obtain fuller details of the events upon appropriate application.

- 12th. A cone-shaped object with a long tail was observed during the afternoon over Edmonton, Alberta.
- 12th. A peculiarly shaped object of unknown origin, and reportedly larger than the full Moon, was seen during the early morning over Cambridge, Ontario. It was silent and moved erratically.



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- 12th. A huge yellow star-shaped object passed over Pierceland, Saskatchewan, during an unspecified hour on the night of this date.
- 12th. A fast moving green object of great size was observed by several witnesses at Sudbury, Ontario. The time this occurred is uncertain, as different observers gave different times.
- 14th. A yellow tear-shaped object was seen moving about the sky over Edmonton at 4.00 pm.
- 15th. Four large objects of singular shape, and leaving vapour trails, were seen passing across the sky in unison during the afternoon. The place of observation was again Edmonton, Alberta.
- 15th. A globe, having smaller spherical protrusions on or close to it, was sighted over Hamner, Ontario by two persons preferring anonymity.
- 16th. Two spheres, moving at high speed, were seen at a great altitude from Barrhead, Alberta, early in the evening.
- 16th. An oblong object, emitting white "smoke", appeared to fall in slow motion through the sky. Observed for approximately 10 minutes. The object was still "falling" as it passed from view over the horizon.
- 17th. A large grey oval-shaped object, having red and green flashing lights was observed early in the morning over Bonavista, Newfoundland.
- 18th. At 5.22 pm a large but remarkably slow ball of fire passed across the sky over Baie Comeau, Quebec.
- 20th. Several places in and around Port Cartier, Quebec were vantage points on this date for observers of three oval-shaped objects displaying red and green and blue lights.

Returning to Britain, we have the following reports for late January.

- 22nd. At 11.30 pm. observers saw a flashing semi-circular object hovering over Hove, Sussex. After a short while it suddenly disappeared. It was soundless.
- 30th. A lady, preferring anonymity, had just arrived back at her house in Windsor, Berkshire, after having taken her dog for a walk, when glanced up at the very clear starry sky. She quickly espied five very small objects, each roughly arrow-shaped, and each very bright and luminous.

#### February 1979:

- 1st. An oblong object hanging motionless in the sky below cloud level was seen by a witness near Butterton, north Staffordshire, at 8.30 pm. It was essentially white, but also had a red or deep orange tinge to it. Its motion was "strange".
- 2nd. 17 years-old Robert Mann was waiting for an Underground train at Ealing Broadway station, Ealing, London W5, when, glancing up at the sky, "which had a lot of black clouds", he noticed a very bright circular object the size of a sixpence at arm's length moving north-east towards the Sun, at 8.45 am. The object's colour reminded the witness of neon white. It moved very fast, much more quickly than an aircraft, and disappeared into low cloud.
- 6th. Mr Denton, a lorry driver, was driving along the NE carriageway of the M5 motorway north-east of Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, at 11.28 am., when

he came to a traffic hold-up near the turn-off for Bromsgrove. While at a standstill he noticed a bright circle of silvery-white light in the sky to his right. Mr Denton had never previously seen anything resembling it. As bright as the average spotlight, the light disappeared very rapidly. The weather at the time was excellent, hardly any clouds being visible.

- 8th. At 6.50 am., an elderly lady was looking out of her kitchen window at her home in Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire, when, at once she spotted a bright white star shaped object the size of a sixpence at arm's length in the sky. It was sharply outlined and remained stationary for a short while before moving away towards the north-east. It then suddenly disappeared in a large cloud of black smoke.
- 8th. At 9.15 pm., a whole family were out on their way to post a letter when they noticed an exceedingly bright light to the east low in the sky. The light was about the size of a sixpence held at arm's length and was a brilliant white. It was soundless. The witnesses then got into their car only to find, as they drove home, that the light followed them. At this stage it altered shape to that of an expensive cigar crushed-in at the ends. The witnesses then stopped the car, got out and watched the object turn and accelerate towards the south-east.
- 10th. A lone witness saw a cone-shaped object stationary in the sky at 4.55 am at Craigie, Perth, Western Australia, on this date. It had red and white lights, and was directing a bright beam of light downwards.
- 10th. A cone-shaped object, white in colour, and revolving with red and green flashes of light, descended with a rocking motion over Christie's Beach, Western Australia, at 4.20 am.
- 11th. A single observer watched a globular object stationary in the sky for several hours over Kersbrook, Western Australia. During the daytime it was silver, but at night it was orange. First seen at 3.15 am, the object eventually moved off very quickly on a horizontal trajectory.
- 17th. A 13 year-old schoolgirl and her friend saw, at mid-day, what they at first took to be an aircraft in the sky over Stourport on Severn, Staffordshire. They changed their minds about the object's identity when, after a few moments, they realised that the object was stationary and changing colour. The object was dish-shaped, spinning, and appeared to be descending over a local field. Colours noticed were blue, green, red and white. One witness thought she saw the object turn orange as well. Silent at all times, the object then changed course and disappeared from view.
- 23rd. At 5.30 pm. an 8 year-old girl and her father watched an aircraft flying over Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands. They then noticed an "eye"-shaped object in the air near the right wing of the aircraft. The colour of the object was a dull red, but the "pupil" of the "eye", although red too, was shining brilliantly. The object suddenly dematerialised.

I should like to record here Data Research's best thanks to the following field investigators who researched many of the above mentioned cases: Nigel Brown, Roy Fisher, and Kathleen Waldron. Some of the other British cases were investigated by Data Research itself, while the Bromsgrove and Stourport-on-Severn cases were investigated by UFOSIS, to whom our best thanks.

The diversity and abundance of reports continued in subsequent months, and I hope in future to detail some of the more interesting ones for you.



"WHAT THE U.K. NEWSPAPERS DON'T TELL US:SOME INTERESTING FOREIGN UFO CASES"

by

J.B.Delair.

Although almost every ufo magazine from time to time cites newspaper accounts of ufo events, both domestic and foreign, and many articles have been written exhorting ufologists to become more aware of what newspapers write about ufos, it is a sad fact that, with few exceptions, almost every British national newspaper consistently and quietly ignores the ufo scene in general and most of the more significant ufo cases in particular. They claim to bring worldwide news to millions daily, yet they consistently overlook or ignore remarkable ufo cases like those detailed below, and extracted from foreign newspapers --- which, it seems, are sometimes more amenable to publishing the relevant data. What British newspaper accounts there are of ufo events seem to be very largely reserved for local or regional tabloids. Why this should be is not clear, although several possible explanations spring to mind --- none of them particularly charitable to the proprietors and editors of the British nationals. One would have thought that, if there is the slightest grain of truth in any of the under-mentioned cases, they are of significance by any standard, and therefore precisely the type of news to appear in national daily newspapers. Indeed, one is left wondering whether this near silence is due to an appalling apathy on the part of news editors towards ufos or whether some more sinister "cover-up" lies behind it, exactly as some have suggested.

One does not denigrate every newspaper respecting the above, for there are some exceptions. On November 11th., for example, the Sunday Express (which reaches out into millions of homes) carried an article (on p.11) entitled "Forester 'attacked by visitors from space'". This particular case is under detailed investigation by Data Research's Scottish field representatives and the local police, so it is clearly premature to discuss it here in anything but the broadest terms. Nevertheless, the contents of the "Sunday Express" article were sufficiently awesome for some later announcement to be made on the case in a subsequent edition of that or another national newspaper. To date, no such announcement has been made, and it seems to this writer that, on the evidence of past newspaper performances concerning similar material, it is unlikely that anything further will be issued about the incident.

But at least the incident was noticed publically, which is a great more than can be said of other recent and still more extraordinary events, like that following.

Under the heading "Killer Tornado Was Really UFO Exhaust, Says Scientist", Paul F. Levy gave some rather sobering information about a tornado-like disaster near New Delhi, in India, that killed 28 people and injured dozens more, in the "National Enquirer", of Nov. 20th. Sometimes prone to sensationalising facts, this newspaper nevertheless printed sufficient of the details (also confirmed to Data Research from other sources) for the following to be taken as a reasonable reflection of the true state of affairs.

Numerous individuals watched a glowing orange metallic-looking sphere "buzz" a suburb of New Delhi late in October (precise date uncertain), exactly at the same time as a tornado-like storm hit the area. Later, physicists discovered a trail of high radio-activity all along the two-mile path of destruction.

Prof. Kumar Trikha of the University of Delhi declared:



"The death and destruction was not an act of nature. The disaster certainly could not have been caused by a tornado, cloudburst or lightning because none of these natural phenomena could have left a trace of radioactivity confined to a narrow strip where the destruction was maximum.

I believe it was caused by a UFO flying at low altitudes and propelled by a nuclear reactor".

Officials nevertheless blamed the tornado for the damage, and took unusual steps to squelch news coverage of the event. One New Delhi journalist, Arun Chacko, said that "Photographers were barred from taking pictures of the dead or injured. The bodies were cremated very swiftly".

Among those who saw the ufo was Dr Shatrughan Shukla, assistant professor of music at the University of Delhi, and also his wife and son. He stated:

"We noticed a blackish metallic spheroid, glowing orange on top and with a long white tail, like steam from a pressure cooker, streaming out behind it. It was moving fast --- shooting up and down, then going in a zigzag fashion".

Dr Shukla later visited the area over which he had seen the ufo pass, and found there horrifying death and destruction. It was at his urging that Prof. Trikha visited the area the next day with a Geiger counter and got readings up to 55% above normal background radiation levels. Dr Shukla found that:

"...thick-trunked trees had been cleanly cut through 10 to 12 feet above the ground, metal utility poles had been sharply bent and steel girders uprooted".

So far as is known, no British national newspaper carried any account of this event; yet something as dramatic and important as this should surely have made at least a second-page column in the average British national newspaper. Perhaps what happens in India is not regarded as news in Fleet Street.

We turn now to an admission by an American medical doctor concerning paralysis effects related to ufo behaviour which in effect says that ufos not only exist but are immensely more advanced technologically than anything on Earth. Although ufologists will smile at this and insist that they knew this all along, that is not the point at issue here. The point is that no British national newspaper has, to our knowledge, issued even an abbreviated version of the American statement --- made, it should be noted by Dr Richard Niemtow, a physician resident in Houston, Texas. True, one isolated physician, however eminent he may be, does not necessarily act as spokesman for officialdom, yet his conclusions bear special weight because they are based upon a profound knowledge of contemporary medical science. The statement therefore has substance. It is not some wild announcement by an untrained crackpot from the hills.

In an interview summarized under the heading "Space Aliens Use 'Unearthly Apparatus' to Paralyze Humans", Thomas L. Muldoon writes in the National Enquirer of Nov. 13th., that Dr Niemtow believes that:

"Aliens must have some type of apparatus that can render a person incapable of certain things --- moving their legs or talking but not other things like breathing or moving their heads. As a medical doctor I can say without contradiction that earthly medical science cannot do this. Only a very advanced civilization or an advanced technology beyond our present knowledge could do something like this".

He continued:

"Scores of people who have had close encounters with ufos report they suffered a very selective paralysis that soon wears off without ill effects".



"Their legs are completely immobilized ---- but they do not fall down. The mouth and throat are paralyzed and they cannot speak --- but they can breathe. It is a very selective and a very calculated paralysis which is well defined throughout the history of ufos. It seems to affect any nerve that is not vital to the person staying alive. We don't understand how it is done.

Some people are afraid but they would have fallen down if fear had paralyzed them. Without exception the paralysis strikes both the brave and the fearful

There are other signs of this paralysis. When a person is paralyzed, animals and insects in the area fall silent --- leaving one to consider whether the paralysis also affects them."

Dr Niemtzow has also found that, during periods when humans are paralyzed, car motors, radios, and other electrical systems often fail. He adds:

"This leads one to believe that the paralysis must be caused by some type of electrical or magnetic field or by some unknown energy field well beyond our present knowledge that affects the nerve cells as well as physical objects using electricity".

Few informed ufologists would withhold agreement from Dr Niemtzow's assertion, based as it is upon a sound knowledge of medical reaction in organic creatures (especially humans). One might also speculate that few professional medics would disagree with Dr Niemtzow's findings either. Yet nothing on this aspect of ufology, as expressed by the Houston physician, has seemingly appeared in British national dailies. Possibly one is being over-cynical in believing that if ufos cause death in India but remain ignored by the press then further revelations pertaining to now well-established human subjection in various close encounter cases is of no more interest either, even though they may be released by a respected professional.

One also supposes that the press in Britain couldn't care less about ufo activity in Bermuda, even though instances of total or near total paralysis (like that reviewed by Dr Niemtzow above) are involved in it. After all, the relevant incident only occurred on September 27th., whereby the press may not have caught up with the details of it yet, at least not those in Britain. But the Ohio "Star" of October 23rd., did. In that edition we read about two Bermudan children, Laquita Dyer, 13, and her brother Melvin, 11, who claim that they were paralyzed in their beds for 10 terrifying minutes just after being suddenly awoken by a loud buzzing noise about 5.30 am on the above date. This occurred the night after dozens of Bermudans had sighted an unknown glowing object race across the southern skies of Bermuda. Laquita said:

"The noise came from outside my room --- but when I tried to get up, I could not move at all. I was paralyzed".

Melvin related a very similar story:

"I tried to get to the window but couldn't. I could get my bedclothes back, but then I couldn't move any more. I can't explain it".

Both children admitted that they were released from their invisible bonds only when the noise stopped. They immediately rushed to their mother, Mrs Sharpleater Dyer, who slept through the entire incident.

The object sighted earlier was a huge yellow sphere that suddenly dematerialised before the astonished gaze of many observers, among whom were an energy consultant, a geography teacher, and a radio technician. It was seen about 9.45 pm.

So far as is known, no British national newspaper ever picked-up the remarkable teleportation case described in the last issue of "Awareness" (vol.8, no:3, 1979, pp.5-6), even though it was summarized from the Argentinian magazine "Radiolandia". Nor has our British press apparently taken up the alleged Russian disclosure that large numbers of ufos may be using Saturn's moon Titan as a base in the solar system. More of that on another occasion. Nonetheless, one would have thought, even if one wasn't in any way embroiled in ufo research, that such events were in themselves sufficiently news-worthy to merit at least a few small columns in reputable national newspapers.

In view of this one is unavoidably led to wonder if our much vaunted free western press really is free. Certainly it seems to be so impartial that it leaves great chunks of demonstrably significant news out of the offerings purveyed to the public every day. Naturally it has to be somewhat selective else we would have to wade through a veritable encyclopaedia daily, while the cost of producing same would be prohibitive. But being responsible, as the press likes to think it is, not only means being sensibly selective but also balanced in its selectivity if that same selectivity has to be applied over a long period. In short, if one cannot for financial or spatial reasons include ufo events in issues scheduled for every day this week, try to get a few into the pages of some of next week's editions, or at the very worst into those of next month. In reality, however, month after month rolls by without ufo activity getting so much as three-line paragraphs in some newspapers, and only an extremely occasional column in others. Selectivity seems to be overdone, when one considers that in the last twelve months alone people seem to have been temporarily paralysed and even, it seems, killed and property severely damaged by ufos, and that fogs and mists of a sort commonly associated with ufos on other occasions are teleporting people from one side of the globe to the other. Apparently such events are of no importance, in Britain.

Of course, perhaps selectivity is not the reason. Possibly the newspapers are so poorly informed of events world-wide that they have none of them heard of any of the events we have just discussed. But in that case, if their information on world events is so purile then that which they do print must be naive and enormously suspect.

A third possibility arises if one tries to put matters into perspective, and that relates to neglect. It could well be that newspaper editors, although well aware of these and other ufo incidents, just can't be bothered to include the relevant accounts in their editions. In that case their newspapers can hardly claim to legitimately present world news, and as such are frauds.

It is, however, conceivable that we do British newspaper editors an injustice for perhaps they have been directed from some other authority not to devote more than miniscule space to ufos over even a period of many months. It may be "policy" to do this so far as some over-riding authority is concerned. Should that ever prove the case then we may well have here a glimpse of officialdom operating a cover-up, such as was mentioned earlier in this article. That other authorities issuing such directives could exist seems reasonably certain in view of the fact that it is well known that various political and security (including police) bodies have secured the co-operation of the press on several past occasions when delicate matters have arisen publically.

We then enquire, just how "delicate" a subject is ufology or the ufo phenomenon regarded in certain higher echelons? Although we may never obtain a satisfactory answer to this question, we can make some shrewd guesses as to what it might be.



Our conclusion must therefore be that under no circumstance can we rely on British national newspapers to furnish us with ufo news, even internationally, even though counterparts in some other countries operate a far more enlightened approach. Those "armchair" ufologists and those members of the public who are just "interested" in the ufo phenomenon may very easily and understandably draw very erroneous conclusions about the ufo phenomenon in general if they base them upon newspaper information. Informed and knowledgeable ufologists on meeting up for the first time with these other "sedentary" ufologists should be aware of this factor. From time to time, we all find ourselves in that position. Often the look of amazement that spreads across the countenances of the "sedentary" ufologists when acquainted ---- apparently for the first time ---- with the magnitude of the ufo phenomenon (inevitably far larger and more complex than the aforementioned British national press has ever publically conveyed) is educational. Many readers of this article will know precisely that feeling.

All the foregoing is another good reason why the provincial newspapers in Britain, which in comparison with the national newspapers are the very antithesis of them, should be regularly combed for local ufo reports. Many hundreds of them are published by these tabloids every year ---- a quite remarkable contrast to the aforementioned national newspapers. The regular monitoring of British provincial newspapers for ufo reports has been consistently advocated in this journal for over a decade. One is gratified to find, via the large numbers of press-clippings from these very publications received from members and correspondents, that such an approach is now widely recognized. Its value is certainly very great.

We may conclude, therefore, with the hope that British national newspapers will shortly see fit to change their policy of near-indifference, or be allowed to publish accounts of notable ufo events like those described earlier. Such a policy is long overdue, and the taxpaying public deserves to know the real ufological "score". I cannot help but finish with the logical question: if current policy is keep the general newspaper-reading public largely ignorant on ufo matters, then why?

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"THE LAMBERT SPECTRE THAT WAS KICKED BY A LONG DISTANCE RUNNER"

by

Ananda Sirisena\*

Harry White, at the age of seventeen, was a keep-fit fanatic who often went for a three mile run at nights. It was during such an exercise in October, 1932, that he tangled with a light which expressed a curious interest in him.

He was on a minor road that leads from Bolsover to Sandhills, in Derbyshire, (map ref. 489713, sheet 112, Nottingham), approaching the junction that this road makes with the main road to Rotherham.

It was a clear evening with the Moon casting a warm glow. He does not know the exact date, but by a process of elimination is certain that it was the month of October, 1932. When he was roughly 120 yards from the intersection, he noticed that a bright light was playing tag with him. The time was about 8.0 pm.

He stopped still. The light also stopped still.

It was hovering three yards away from him, on the far side of the hedgerow which lined his route. Fascinated by this intelligent response, he remained calm, and coolly scanned the entire area looking for a logical explanation. Finding none, he resumed his run.

The light also started up, maintaining a level pace with him, at a height of three feet above the ground. For another 50 yards this silent race between youth and light continued, until the light suddenly moved towards him. Not so fast as to be a blur, but a calculated move which he could not follow with his eye. Mr White says:

"The object left the hedgerow and suddenly moved towards and around my legs and in between my feet as I ran. I felt it had come to investigate --- and had become aggressive --- but this could have been a nervous reaction on my part. It was, however, very real and no illusion. I began to kick out at the thing, really scared and in a panic".

Seemingly undamaged by this vigorous retaliation, the light remained close to him, evaded his kicking and easily moved around him without making physical contact. On reaching the road junction, the light left him, returning to its position behind the hedgerow and for another 100 yards kept pace with his now fast run. Then it just disappeared.

He estimates the light to have been a perfect sphere, twelve inches in diameter. This is somewhat puzzling: how could a light that size pass between a pair of running legs? It would have to be endowed with a keen sense of timing and lightning reflexes not to have touched his legs.

Mr White is adamant the light did not touch him; he felt no warmth or pain when it moved around its legs. It made no sound and emitted no smell. It did not change in size, and there were no markings on it, only a uniform non-dazzling glow. It left no trail and did not vary in brightness.

Mr White is a schoolmaster by profession. He further states:

"I was a captain in the infantry during World War II and saw many horrors and felt intense fear on many occasions --- these are now dim memories --- but the light is still a vivid memory".

The Sandhills is not a marshy area. The night was dry and there was not a rain



or snow storm later, making the ball-lightning proposition weak. The duration of the sighting was about three minutes. Mr White himself offers no explanation except to say that he witnessed something very unusual.

"All I do know is what I experienced. I have not embroidered the account in any way".

When he arrived home that night after his eventful run, his grandfather, sitting in his chair by the fireside, remarked: "You look scared to death". Upon recounting his story, the grandfather propounded a simple solution: the area where he saw the light was the traditional burying place of suicides and one must expect to see the occasional tormented soul in such net-her regions.

In June 1932, a similar light was seen on a farm 18 miles south of Erie, Pennsylvania, USA (1). Its reported manouvres and size make a noteworthy comparison.

Other mystery lights of unknown origin, but often performing intelligent or purposeful movements, have been reported from many places around the world (2) and bear comparison in some instances with that encountered by Mr White. Thomas Harrison, who witnessed a similar light at Shuttlewood in 1919 (3), afforded a rather similar description of the thing he saw.

Although apparently not common, these lights seemingly appear sufficiently often for one to speculate how many are observed but never reported. Perhaps we will never know.

#### Notes:

- (1) Gordon I. Lore and Harold H. Deneault. 1968. "Mysteries of the Skies: Ufos in Perspective (Prentice-Hall).
- (2) Vincent H. Gaddis. 1967. "Mysterious Fires and Lights" (Dell Publishing Co.); see especially chapters 5 and 6.
- (3) Ananda Sirisena. "The Light at Shuttlewood", Flying Saucer Review, vol. 20, no:5.

\* \* \* \*

\* Editor of the Sri Lanka UFO Register, 167 Gladstone Road, Wimbledon, London, SW19 1QS.

#### "AN EARLY METEORITE OR WHAT?"

communicated through

F.W. Passey.

The following is a copy of an interesting letter from Cyril D. Blount, of Teasdale House, Easingwold, York, which was published in the October 1979 volume (vol. 89, no:6) of the Journal of the British Astronomical Association. Informed readers may already know of this event, which has been reported in various past ufo magazines, but may be unaware of the more recent developments concerning it, or of the differing views expressed about what the original account actually related to in recent years. It would seem in order to bring the report and these later opinions to the attention of ufologists who, while not automatically identifying the described phenomenon as ufological, may well feel that a "meteor" explanation is hardly adequate.

"Dear Sir,

A Seventeenth-century Meteorite.

In 1972 a copy of a pamphlet published in 1646 was obtained from the Colman Library, which is part of the local history collection of Norwich City Library. Part of the pamphlet has been published in the "Eastern Daily Press" (B. Phillips, "Eastern Daily Press", July 31st., 1969) in which it was suggested that the event described in it related to an unidentified flying object. When I re-interpreted the pamphlet in terms of a meteorite fall, there was considerable scepticism, hence this belated report.

The title of the pamphlet reads:

"Signes from Heaven: or severall apparitions seen and heard in the Ayre, in the Counties of Cambridge & Norfolk on the 21st. of May last in the after-noone 1646".

"Viz: A Navie or Fleet of Ships under sayle. A Ball of wild fire rolling up and downe. Three men struggling one with another, one have a sword in his hand, Great Hailstones round and hollow like rings, Extraordinary beating of Drums in the Ayre, etc., A Pillar or Cloud ascending up from the earth like a spire Steeple, being opposed by a Speare or Lance downward. Being made manifest by divers and severall Letters from persons of credit in both counties, and sent up to this City to their friends for Truth".

It was printed by T. Forcet, dwelling in ....ish Street in Heydon Court 1646. Handwritten on the cover is the word "Dupe", and inside the cover is a stamp which reads "British Museum Sale Duplicate 1787", which suggests that there should be another copy in the British Museum.

The full text of the pamphlet is as follows, retaining the quaint spelling of the period.

"Strange Signes from Heaven to warne and awaken the Eastern Association, with the Southerne parts of the Kingdome.

Upon the one and twentieth day of May, in the afternoone, in this year 1646, there were very strange sights seen, and unwonted sounds heard in the Ayre in severall places as followeth,

About Newmarket in the County of Cambridge there were seen by divers honest, sober and civill persons and men of good credit, three men in the Ayre striving, struggling, and tugging together, one of them having a drawn sword in his hand, from which Judgement God in Mercy preserve these three Kingdoms, England, Scotland, and Ireland, from further conflicts and effusion of blood.

Betwixt Newmarket and the Town of Thetford in the aforesaid County, there was observed a pillar or a Cloud to ascend from the earth, with the bright hilts of a sword towards the bottom of it, which pillar did ascend in pyramidall form and fashioned itself into the form of a Spire or broach steeple and there descended also out of the sky, the forme of a Pike or Larce, with a very sharp head or point to encounter with it.

Also at a distance, there appeared another Speare or Lance, with a very acute point out of the Skye likewise, which was ready to interpose, but did not engage itself.

The first Speare which came down from Heaven point blanck was after a while clean elevated higher, and that Spire or Speare which went up from the Earth ascended after it, to encounter with it the second time.

This continued about an houre and a halfe.



At Stopham in the country of Cambridge aforesaid, a ball of wild-fire fell upon the earth, which burnt up and spoyled about an aker of Graine, and when it had rolled and runne up and down to the terror of many people and some Townsmen that see it, it dissolved and left a most sulpherous strike behind it.

Also at Comberton in the County of Cambridge aforesaid, divers of the Trayned Bands being met at a muster, did behold the forme of a Spire Steeple in the Skye, with divers swords set round about it.

Also at Brandon in the County of Norfolk the inhabitants were forced to come out of their houses to behold so strange a spectacle of a Spire Steeple ascending up from the earth, and a Pike or Lance descending downwards from Heaven. The Lord in mercy blesse and preserve His Church, and settle Peace and Truth among all degrees; and more especially among our Church-men.

In Brandon in the County aforesaid, was seen at the same time a Navie or Fleet of Ships in the Ayre, swiftly passing under Sayle, with flags and streamers hanged out, as if they were ready to give an encounter.

In Marshland in the County of Norfolk aforesaid, within three miles of Kings Linne, a Captain and a Lieutenant, with divers persons of credit, did heare in the time of Thunder, a sound as of a whole regiment of Drums beating a call with perfect notes and stops, much admired at of all who heard it.

And the like military sound was heard in Suffolk upon the same day and in other parts of the Eastern Association.

In all these places there was very great Thunder, with Raine and Hailstones of extraordinary bignesses and round, and some hollow within like rings.

The Lord grant that all the people of this Kingdome may take heed to every warning Trumpet of His, that we may speedily awaken out of our sins, and truly turn to the Lod, fight his battells against our spirituall Enemies, and get those inward riches, of which we cannot be plundered, and so seek an inward Kingdome of Righteousnesse and Peace, that we may be capable in His good time of a settled Peace, and state in the outward Kingdome, and all through our Lord, Jesus Christ".

I have not been able to identify Stopham either in Cambridgeshire or Norfolk, but it seems reasonable now to suggest that the information was at first transmitted by word of mouth, and that "Swaffham" was misheard as "Stopham" by one who did not know the counties in question.

I was given an opportunity to talk about this possible fall of a meteorite in Breckland on the BBC TV local news programme. I asked people who live in the triangle formed by Cambridge, Thetford, and Bury St. Edmunds to tell us if they found any anomalous stones in their fields or gardens. Two stones were reported. One a glacial erratic near to Watton, Norfolk, and a small stone with a burnt appearance which was found by some newspaper reporters; but Dr. Keith Hindley examined it, and told us it was not a meteorite.

In the summer of 1975 some members of the Norwich Astronomical Society, supported by the local Landrover Club, went into Breckland and searched a region where there are a number of near circular formations, some meres, some dry. The map references for the area searched are 873892, 878865, 909879, 895875, and 873889, but no stones suitable shape or texture were found, though we all had a very enjoyable day out.

At one site called the "Devil's Punchbowl", a near-circular dry depression,



we found some hundreds of heat-crazed flints. The explanation given us at the time was that these were the remains of larger flints which prehistoric man had used to heat water: heated in open fires they had been dropped when hot into pots of water. The cracking and crazing was due to the cooling shock. There were so many of them that we could not help speculating if the crazing could have been due to heat generated by the impact of a meteorite.

If the paper by Warren (Warren, P.A. J.Brit.Astron.Assoc., vol.89, no:3, p.285 (1979).) had not been published, the negative results of this investigation would never have been reported. However, in view of Warren's discovery it seems only right to support his speculation that there was a fall of meteoritic material in East Anglia in 1646.

(Signed) Cyril D.Blount."

\* \* \* \* \*

The foregoing assessment is certainly strange in view of the fact that archaeologists are well aware of flint "factories" in the Breckland area, shafts being sunk for obtaining flints at Grime's Graves and other nearby places, and that prehistoric flint workshops occur in numerous localities in Suffolk and Norfolk, and especially in neighbouring Lincolnshire (v. "Prehistoric Man and His Story", Prof.G.F.Scott-Elliot, (London, 1925), pp. 328, 347, etc.). The identity of the flints discovered by Mr Blount and his party almost certainly relates to these well-known prehistoric flint industries of East Anglia, and there is not the slightest shred of evidence to support his contention that the flints found in Breckland, as mentioned in his letter, have any meteoric connections whatsoever.

Blount continues his arbitrary way when he suggests that Stopham in the pamphlet was really Swaffham. The original text plainly states that it was in Cambridgeshire. Swaffham is in, and in fact well inside, Norfolk. While the national gazetteer of British place-names does indeed fail to list a Stopham, from which we can agree with Mr Blount that the pamphlet perhaps errs in the spelling of whatever that place really was, we could, if we followed Blount's example, say it was Stonham, which is a village near Stowmarket in Suffolk. Such a suggestion, though superficially attractive, is no better than Blount's if we accept that "Stopham" genuinely was in Cambridgeshire. That being so, perhaps the text really meant the small town of Soham, a few miles NNE of Newmarket --- which is mentioned.

Also, when we read that events continued for "an houre and a halfe", we can hardly believe that even the unknowledgeable inhabitants of East Anglia of the seventeenth century would fail in that time to conclude that "shooting stars" (normally seen at night) were visiting them --- if meteors (shooting stars) they really were. One and a half hours is a long time to view a phenomenon and still not be able to correlate it with something previously known (to somebody). Moreover, people in quite widely sundered localities were seeing the same kind of thing on May 21st., 1646, so surely somebody among them would have recognized a "shower of falling stones" had such really fallen.

Objects (if they were objects) compared to spears, lances, and steeples, are not very meteor-like, however one considers them, particularly if they remain in the air over a space of one and half hours. And just what sort of meteors were the three struggling "men" supposed to be, one of whom, it is said, held a sword?

On balance, the evidence suggests almost anything except a meteor shower. Perhaps Mr Phillips (mentioned earlier) had the correct interpretation.



### SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Annual General Meeting for 1979/1980 will be held at the Town Hall, Oxford on February 9th., 1980. In order to allow those attending time to return to their homes by a reasonable hour, the programme has been modified slightly from those advertised in the last (Autumn) issue of "Awareness" as follows.

2.15pm. Doors open (to subscribing members only).

2.30pm. (prompt) Annual General Meeting begins: open to subscribing members only.

3.30 pm.(approx.) Annual General Meeting closes.

3.30 pm. (approx.) Meeting opened to the general public.

4.00 pm. Lecture by Randall Jones-Pugh: "The Dyfed Enigma - And After".

5.15 pm.(approx.) Lecture by J.Bernard Delair: "UFO Origins - The Alternatives Considered".

6.30 pm. Round-up of recent significant ufo cases by John Sears.

7.15 pm. Presentation of special new awards.

8.00 pm. (approx.) Meeting closes

The meeting will include a new exhibition, a section devoted to the sale of magazines, and short breaks between each of the above items during which those attending can meet and discuss mutual topics informally.

Last year's meeting was a resounding success, attended by an unprecedented number of individuals (members of the public included). In order that members obtain well-positioned seats this year, all those who anticipate attending this year's meeting are strongly advised to inform the Membership Secretary well in advance of Feb.9th. so that seats can be reserved for them. All seats will be allocated on a first come first served basis. It would be helpful if members applying for seat reservations stated their membership numbers when doing so.

Make February 9th. a firm date in your diary and make sure you attend what is always a most enjoyable event. We look forward to seeing you all once again in Oxford on February 9th.

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### ELECTION OF A NEW NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

F.W.Passey, who has served Contact International (UK) as national Chairman so faithfully for so long, has announced his retirement from that post, to be effective from February 9th., 1980. A new Chairman must therefore be elected, and this will be carried out at the above A.G.M.

Any fully paid-up member of Contact International (UK) of more than three consecutive year's standing is eligible to stand as a candidate for this important post. All those wishing to stand as candidates must, of course, be proposed by and seconded by two fully paid-up members, otherwise their applications will be null and void. All intending candidates should send details of their names, addresses, age, sex, membership number, and the names and membership numbers of their proposers and seconders direct to the Membership Secretary (address on page 1 supra) by not later than February 1st., coming. Election results will be final and binding.

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READERS' LETTERS

The following is a selection of the many letters we receive from members and readers of "Awareness" at Data Research's headquarters. The opinions expressed are varied and often interesting, and are presented here for that reason. Remember, this is your section of your magazine. If you have ideas and views about ufological matters, do please send them to us at our Wootton address.

"Dear Editor,

After reading the magazine "Awareness", I must disagree with you as labeling Erich von Daniken's books as rubbish. For years I have been searching for the truth about our past which is full of unsolved mysteries. For example the Sirius mystery. So I came to the conclusion that Thousands of years ago extraterrestrials visited our planet earth, and civilized and interbred with the people they found on earth. Then, when they had accomplished there (sic) mission they had massive monuments constructed, which are still standing as evidence Today. Then they left, but a minority of these visitors (sic) remained there (sic) with spacecraft and are still watching us. That is what I think these UFO's are being seen all over the World. So I wouldn't regard Von Daniken's books as rubbish but as Reality.

yours sincerely,

(signed) P.Roberts

15 The Avenue,  
Chester-le-Street,  
Co.Durham.

(Ed: Naturally everybody is entitled to conclude what they want to. However, conclusions should be based on demonstrably sound evidence. Many ufo publications, including some of von Daniken's books, offer material that has been deliberately wrenched out of its original context, and as such are untrustworthy. After all, anyone can prove anything if one ignores such evidence as does not happen to support a personal theory. There must be many readers who have views on the above letter, so, as well as writing direct to Mr Roberts, let us have a few of them for inclusion in the next issue of this magazine).

"Dear Mr Passey,

Being a keen student of the ufo phenomenon and knowing of the wide membership enjoyed by Contact, I wondered if any of your members are keen to write and correspond with some of us over here?"

Yours sincerely,

(signed) Mrs B.Chittenden.

Mrs B.Chittenden,  
P.O.Box 1380,  
Pinetown, 3600,  
Natal, Rep.South Africa.

(Ed. Come on somebody, if merely to get hold of those lovely stamps that get stuck onto letters and envelopes from South Africa).

"Dear Sir,

I should like to say how delighted I was to read a friends copy of your magazine "Awareness" the other day. Tremendous stuff and so informative. I shortly intend becoming a member".

(signed) Alfred Stoneham.



"Dear Mr Delair,

Although I like your magazine very much, why is it not properly printed, as in a book? It would look far better and sell more copies. Have you ever thought of having it properly printed? I am not really criticising, as I do like your magazine very much, but would like to see it looking better than it does.

(signed) Rex Costain.

(Ed: You raise many issues, Mr Costain, but as they must have also crossed the minds of some of our other members from time to time I will try to outline the relevant problems for you below. Incidentally, "Awareness" is not my magazine, but belongs to Contact International (UK). Even though I happen to edit it, any other editor would still have to face the same set of difficulties.

Firstly, I assume that you mean letterpress printing when you refer to "proper printing". This is very expensive in comparison with the total finance possessed by Contact International (UK). Letterpress would naturally look nicer than the present duplicated version.

It is the policy of Contact International (UK) to charge its members, via the annual subscriptions, only just enough to cover the cost of buying paper, cover-boards, ink (we own our duplicator fortunately), envelopes and labels to despatch magazines in, and postal rates. Any that is left over (usually very little) is either kept in our bank, used for exhibition material or for purchasing the more reliable ufo publications. You know what the current annual subscription is. If, however, you think members would be prepared to pay annually about £6.00p per head then we could run to letterpress printing. BUT, and this is a big BUT, the jump to £6.00p is calculated on this year's costs, which in reality were last year's costs as we bought our present paper, ink, and cover board stocks in 1978. We must add some replacements to these early in 1980. Since 1978, however, the price of paper has almost doubled, the price of envelopes has risen by over 20%, and hefty postal increases are promised us all by March or earlier. As letterpress costs are also to increase in January 1980, we can safely say that members would have to pay between £8 and £9 per head if this magazine used letterpress printing. Do you think you or many members would be prepared to pay such large annual subscriptions? Remember we have a number of junior members and senior citizens as members, and they pay reduced annual subscriptions (which is only proper). Price increases and subscription increases have to take them into account too.

I hope the above clarifies the problems for you. We would love to print in letterpress, but unless somebody finds us a rich backer such luxury as you desire seems somewhat remote. A great pity of course.

Incidentally, we do not sell "Awareness" (except a very few copies to special overseas bodies), so the enhanced sales aspect you mention does not enter into the overall argument. "Awareness" is a membership magazine, not a news-stand magazine.

As editor I am sure that many of our members will be interested in the above. I hope the explanation clarifies the position for them. Of course if all members are actually anxious to pay annual subscriptions of £8 or more, then do please write to us immediately. Otherwise the dreadful spectre of inflation will continue to haunt us and our magazine will remain as it is).

## REVIEWS

A variety of books and magazines about ufos and related topics continues to roll off the world's printing presses, so reviews of them must necessarily be selective here due to space limitations. Three such reviews follow.

"THE AIRMEN WHO WOULD NOT DIE",

by John G. Fuller.

(Souvenir Press): price £5.95p.

Although not a ufo book it is authored by a celebrated writer on the ufo theme. Remember "Incident At Exeter" and "The Interrupted Journey" by the same writer? They became best sellers in their field. I predict a similar success for this his most recent offering. It details to shattering effect the case for a continuance of life after death, and some as yet little understood method whereby the recently dead can communicate (more or less at will it seems) with those still living. In particular it links these themes to the R101 airship crash, the Hinchcliffe disappearance, and other early aeronautical disasters. Enormously well documented and excellently compiled this book is very free of typographical errors, is replete with an index and various notes, and contains a series of highly pertinent illustrations. Possibly highly-priced for some pockets, it is, at £5.95p., still extremely fine value and rattling good read. Indeed, if you just cannot afford it, do borrow a copy from your local library. Everyone should read this book.

"UFOs AND RELATED SUBJECTS: AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY",

by Lynn E. Catoe.

(Gale Research Co., Detroit): price not stated.

First published under the same title in 1969, Catoe has recently (1978) updated her first massive bibliography so that it is now of monumental proportions. In fact it is 410 pages long. Inevitably these encompass a vast mass of ufological information, although, I hasten to say, it is far from exhaustive. It is, however, more comprehensive than any other single ufo publication known to me, and deals, among items, with Men in Black, ufo abductions, landings, the Hollow Earth theory, possible ufo propulsion methods, and such like. Over 1600 items are arranged by subject (over 70 are recognized), each entry being presented simply, i.e., the basic title, author's name, place of publication, date of issue, and pagination, followed by a brief résumé of the main theme/s of the entry.

No price is regrettably given on my copy, which arrived gratis for review purposes, but I have no hesitation in recommending that interested purchasers (which should include absolutely every ufologist) should make the efforts to obtain a copy direct from the publishers or from 9-12 St Ann's Court, London London, W1. It will be worth every penny.

"Fortean Times: The Journal of Strange Phenomena",

Edited by Bob J.M. Rickard.

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